

Rialto Theater
943 Hamilton Mall
Allentown
Lehigh County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5340

HABS
PA,
59-ALLEN,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Pennsylvania		COUNTY Lehigh	TOWN OR VICINITY Allentown
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Rialto Theater			HABS NO. PA-5340
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 943 Hamilton Mall, Allentown, PA 18101			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1918-1921 (Allentown Morning Call)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Max Chanock, Max Senderowitz (Allentown Morning Call)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Interior decorative features indicative of 1920s theater construction; exterior not significant due to substantial alteration - always used as theater until closure in 1979 and conversion to storage space in 1980.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Not appropriate due to exterior alteration			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick (stucco overlay 1950's)			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) L-shaped, 180.17' x 229.98'			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE None			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Decorative treatment of walls, ceilings (polychromed plaster). Plans and sections in field records.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1946-construct lobby; 1948-construct side attachment building; 1949-interior alterations (storefront); 1970-partial conversion to offices; 1975-enclose stairwell; 1980-total interior conversion to storage space; 1981-new frame and aluminum canopy; 1985-86 (proposed) create			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE of modern office building. Poor condition, used as storage space for office equipment.			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Severe fire damage April 1946 - interior survived mostly intact, exterior damaged. The theater continued to operate; however, the area facing North Tenth Street was severely damaged and never resumed its store use; instead serving as warehouse and storage space.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) City directories, Allentown Morning Call, City permits.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Joseph E. Hoffman, City Planner			DATE 8/14/85